

**PRAYERS**

**Butch and Chris** – Chris’ surgery is scheduled for March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Butch had his replacement knee removed due to infection. He will be on antibiotics for several weeks before having another replacement surgery.

**Mark** (Linda’s family) – Making good progress in rehab.

**Chance** – She will have dialysis three times a week. She is back in Aberdeen.

**Linda McBrayer** – She is doing better after her fall.

**Carmen** – Traveling to Tennessee

**Congregation News**

Pot Luck is today. Please stay and share a meal enjoy the fellowship. Plan to stay for the afternoon singing at 1PM.

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:** Can you remember when family meals were thought out instead of thawed out?

**Those Privileged to Serve**

**Sunday Morning Service:**

**3/18/18**

**3/25/18**

Bible Class	Paul Darling	Colby Crawford
Announcements	Paul Darling	Colby Crawford
Song Leader	Paul Darling	Tom Bright
Opening Prayer	Colby Crawford	Colby Crawford
Lord's Supper	Paul Darling	Tom Bright
Scripture Reading	Colby Crawford	Paul Darling
Sermon	Colby Crawford	Paul Darling

<b>Bible Classes</b>	<b>Sunday Morning</b>	<b>Wednesday Evening</b>
Adult	Paul Darling	Paul Darling
Children	Colby Crawford	Linda McBrayer
Toddlers	Cindy Bright	
Babies	Anissa Crawford	

<b>Birthdays &amp; Anniversaries</b>	<b>Building Cleanup</b> McBrayer
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**Bulletin Submissions**  
If you would like anything added to the bulletin such as prayer requests, news, or events, please make submissions by Friday night to: [tlbj@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tlbj@sbcglobal.net)

# Aberdeen church of Christ

March 18, 2018

## **Giving 99% - A Gift Larger than Zuckerberg’s**

First, there was Black Friday, the annual day to kick back from the turkey and head out to the malls to push and shove away all those extra calories. Later, came Cyber Monday, just in case you still had some of your Christmas cash available. Now, we have been presented with Giving Tuesday. I personally received nearly a dozen emails from organizations encouraging me to join in.

The biggest splash of all on Giving Tuesday was clearly made by Mark Zuckerberg, founder of Facebook, and his wife Chan. In announcing the birth of their daughter Max, the Zuckerberg’s also stated, on Facebook that they would be giving 99% of their Facebook shares during the course of their lives “to advancing human potential and promoting equality.”

As of yesterday, that pledge was worth about \$45 billion. (Yes, that’s the letter “B” in the last word of that sentence.)

For the last few years we’ve heard about the generosity of Bill and Melinda Gates and their charitable foundation. Warren Buffet has joined forces with the Gates, and billions of dollars are set aside for causes they believe in. Regardless of how the money is used (which sometimes runs counter to Christian values), it’s refreshing to see the mega-rich setting an example of giving.

As impressive as the Zuckerbergs’ pledge of 99% of their shares may be, it doesn’t overshadow a gift given long ago. Luke recorded the event: “And [Jesus] looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury, and He saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites. So He said, ‘Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all: For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had.’” (Luke 21:1-4).

This is not to say that large gifts are unimportant; Barnabas once sold some land he possessed, “and brought the money and laid it at the apostles’ feet” (Acts 4:37). We’re not told the value of that sale, but it must have been substantial. The fact that it is recorded in Scripture also suggests it was pleasing to the Lord, for the funds were for the support of the weak and needy. Large gifts can be very pleasing to God.

What the example of the widow teaches us is that even small gifts make a difference, if they are given from a sincere and genuine faith. In Matthew 10:42 Jesus gave this encouraging insight: “And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say to you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.” The world won’t read about a gift like that on the Internet, but God will see.

Helping others? It’s God’s will. As Paul reminds us, we are to “remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive’” (Acts 20:35).

### **Our Nation In Crisis: What Should We Do?**

It will be interesting how the history books will record this current juncture in our history. It is clearly evident that there is a concerted effort among some in high positions to tear down the foundation pillars upon which our nation was built and has been sustained. The mainstream principles of the past are increasingly being viewed with disdain. Influential forces are urging us to accept numerous changes that will impact our society, even if they are different from our personal convictions.

Doctor Albert Mohler stated in his daily podcast, *The Briefing*, “We are now living in times that are so unsettled that it is hard to know what we will face tomorrow, and for that matter, later today.” How should we as Christians view this present hour in our nation? The easy reaction is to complain, become cynical, or to imagine the worst possible scenario. But I believe there are some better reactions. Please consider the following three reactions:

- 1) **Determine that we will not allow our faith to be weakened by what is happening around us.** Challenging times demand a strong, sterling, and stalwart faith. Please recall Daniel’s reaction when the king signed the edict which declared that if anyone made a petition to any god or man for thirty days, except King Darius, they would be cast into a den of lions (Daniel 6:6-7). Daniel’s response was a demonstration of his firm faith in God, “Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.” (Daniel 6:10). No matter what is

happening in our world, God’s love and power remains the same. As the apostle John exclaimed, “Because he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world” (1 John 4:4).

#### **2) Maintain a proper perspective.**

There is no denying that ungodly forces are having a greater influence in our nation. We grieve that the promotion of moral decency has too often been replaced by the parading of sordid attitudes and practices. But there is a danger that while we are observing and opposing the evil in our nation that we could neglect our personal relationship with the Lord. For example, we still have an obligation to seek first the Lord’s kingdom in our lives (Matthew 6:33), to strive for spiritual growth (II Peter 3:18), and to diligently involve ourselves in the Lord’s work (I Corinthians 15:58). Also, we must not allow our opposing of evil and immorality to take our eyes off of heaven. The apostle Paul exultingly declared, “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ” (Philippians 3:20).

#### **3) Sincerely pray for our nation**

An important need of the present hour is for faithful Christians to give priority to praying for our nations and its leaders. The challenges facing our nation are not only from forces outside our nation, but also from within our nation. The apostle Paul taught, “Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence” (I Timothy 2:1-2). At the time of this writing, Nero was the evil emperor over the large Roman Empire, and Christians were being horribly persecuted, including being killed in gruesome ways. It is relatively simple to decry the impact of evil and the downward spiral of our nation. But as the people of God, we must humble ourselves before the Lord and pour out our hearts to Him on behalf of our nation.